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**PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
REPORT**

**TEST CORING, DRILLING RIGS
AND UNIDENTIFIED ACTIVITY
AT SOVIET SSM COMPLEXES
WITH IIIF AND IIIG LAUNCH SITES
U.S.S.R.**

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TEST CORING, DRILLING RIGS, AND UNIDENTIFIED ACTIVITY AT SOVIET SSM COMPLEXES WITH TYPE IIIF OR IIIG LAUNCH SITES

1. Deployment of the type IIIF and IIIG single-silo launch sites began in late 1970 at seven deployed SSM complexes. Since that time, several areas of either test corings, drilling rigs, or unidentified activity have been observed at five of these complexes. These areas have been constantly monitored since their identification because of the possibility that one, some, or all could be the start of additional deployment. [redacted] none of these areas could be directly associated with silo construction. In fact, with the one exception of the unidentified activity at the Zhangiz-Tobe Complex, none of these areas appeared to be missile related.

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Dombarovskiy ICBM Complex

Test Corings

2. Test coring activity in two areas designated A and B was observed during August and September 1971 (Figure 1). Both areas were within launch group B and were near an SS-9 launch site.

3. Area A was observed on [redacted] and is approximately 1.5 nautical miles (nm) south of launch site 11B. It contains three parallel rows of three corings each which form a square pattern. The center coring and one coring on the south and one on the west side appeared to be more prominent than the other six. The pattern of the corings resembles the survey positions previously seen at locations where SS-9 launch sites were later constructed. No other activity has been observed in this area [redacted]

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4. Activity in Area B was observed for the first time [redacted] about 2 nm north of launch site 9B. The area contained one house trailer, one van, two trucks, and one truck-mounted crane. None of this equipment was present [redacted] This equipment had been removed when the area was observed [redacted] and a single probable test coring may have been present. No activity could be observed [redacted]

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5. The activity observed in areas A and B does not presently appear to be missile related.

Drilling Rigs

6. A large-scale drilling operation is present approximately 6 nm south of the city of Dombarovskiy and 8 nm southwest of launch group C. Five small buildings, one step-roofed building, five derricks, and ten drilling positions were in the area [redacted] Drilling rigs, similar to those seen at the Kartaly complex, were in three of these ten positions. In addition, a small, separately secured, building was immediately north of the step-roofed building. It is probably used for explosives storage.

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7. This drilling operation was first observed in early 1966 when two small buildings and several derricks were present. Activity has gradually increased to the present time. Small lattice derricks have been moved frequently to different locations within this area. Natural resources exploration is evidently underway here.

Unidentified Activity in Launch Group D

8. Unidentified activity was observed in an area about 2 nm northeast of Dombarovskiy launch site 25D [redacted] A small piece of equipment with a mast of undetermined function and two other objects were observed. These objects were not present [redacted] This equipment could not be identified nor could its function be determined, but the activity is not considered to be missile related.

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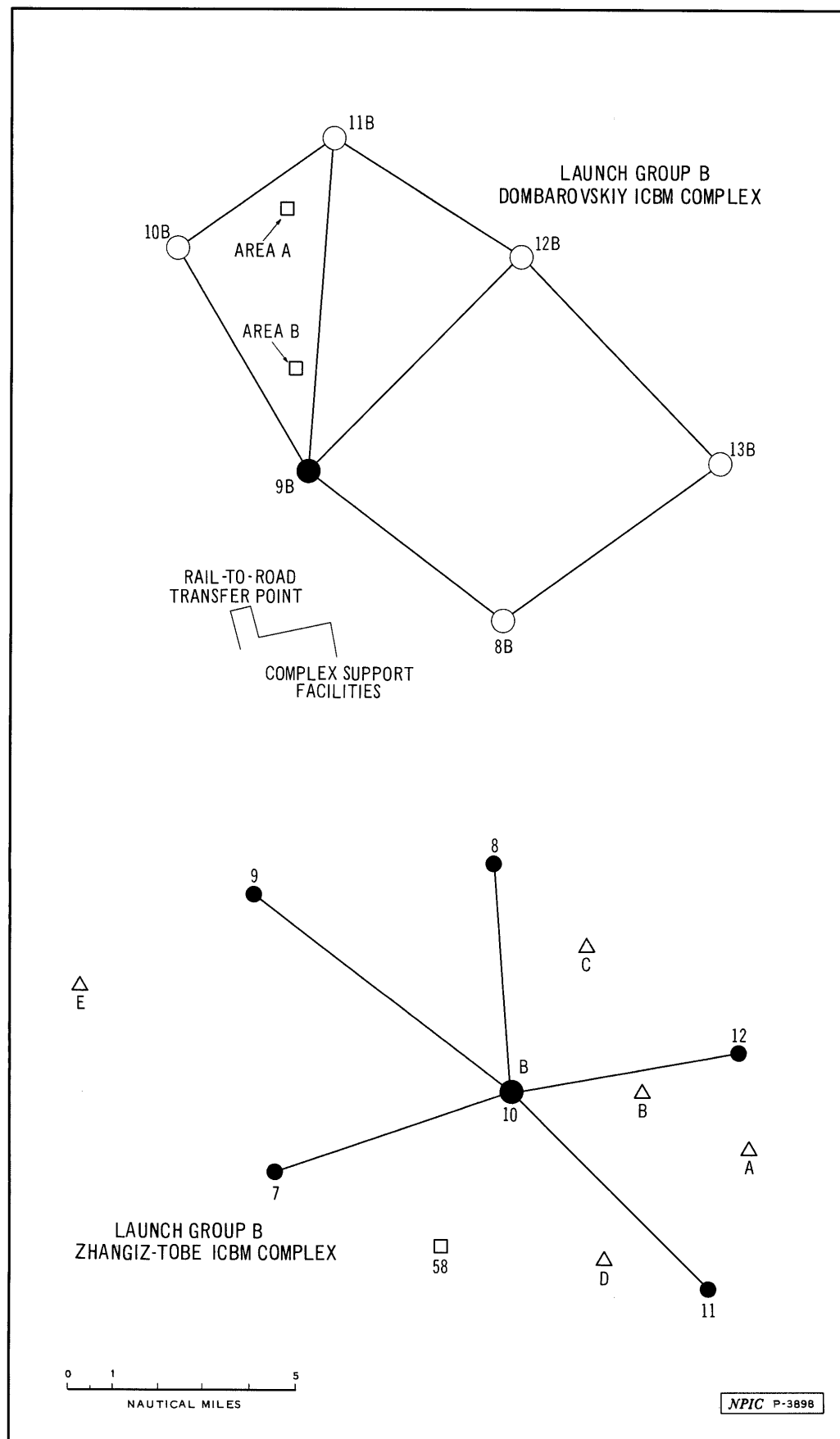


FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF TEST CORINGS WITHIN THE B GROUPS AT DOMBAROVSKIY AND ZHANGIZ-TOBE ICBM COMPLEXES

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25X1**Zhangiz-Tobe ICBM Complex****Test Corings**

9. Test coring activity in five areas, designated A through E, has been identified in the vicinity of launch group B (Figure 1). Activity in these areas was first seen on photography [redacted]

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[redacted] Activity in areas A and D was not present [redacted]

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[redacted] No usable photography is available to permit a determination of the earliest date that a coring was not present in area E.

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10. A van trailer and a probable drilling rig were observed at area C [redacted] and at area A [redacted] ground scarring in a plus-shaped pattern was noted at area B; and ground scarring in an indistinct pattern was seen at areas D and E. No change except for the removal of the drilling rigs has been noted at these areas on six coverages since their identification.

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11. The activity observed in these five areas is not presently missile related. Whether or not it was once intended to be associated with additional deployment cannot be determined.

Unidentified Activity

12. [redacted] one building, two other buildings under construction, and a nearby area of disturbed earth were observed 8.5 nm southwest of Zhangiz-Tobe launch site 26D at 48-45-09N 080-50-00E. [redacted] all three buildings appeared complete. These buildings are similar in size and appearance to typical launch site construction support buildings. [redacted] track activity was present leading to an irregular excavation where the area of disturbed earth was noted previously.

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13. When last observed [] extensive track activity was present between the buildings and the excavation. The excavation was still irregular and did not conform to any excavation seen for the type IIIF or IIIG sites. There was also a lack of security fencing. Although construction has continued at this area, it has not progressed sufficiently to allow a firm determination of its function at this time.

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Kartaly ICBM Complex**Drilling Rigs**

14. Three drilling rigs were observed in a line on a frozen lake about 30-35 nm east of launch group D []. These rigs were [] separated

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15. The three drilling rigs on the lake were not present [] when a total of eight drilling rigs were noted in a large area approximately 3 nm south of that lake. Of the eight drilling rigs six were in two groups of three and the remaining two were isolated.

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16. [] two drilling rigs were observed in the same general area as those seen []. This drilling rig activity, like that at Dombarovskiy, is probably associated with geological exploration.

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Unidentified Activity

17. Unidentified activity in an area just west of launch site 25D was first seen []. It was not present []. Three probable vans and a mast of undetermined function were in this area. Like the unidentified activity in launch group D at the Dombarovskiy Complex, this activity is not considered to be missile related.

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Uzhur ICBM Complex**Unidentified Activity**

18. Unidentified activity was observed in an area about 1.5 nm north-northeast of launch site 57J []. This activity consisted of an area that was cleared of snow and had several small rectangular objects within it. No security fences, construction equipment, or construction support buildings were present. The activity is probably associated with agriculture.

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Pervomaysk SSM Complex**Drilling Rigs**

19. Three drilling rigs, approximately 9 nm east of type IIID launch group F, were first observed []. The rigs, positioned on a north-south line, []

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20. [] the southernmost rig had been dismantled. The middle rig had been moved approximately 200 meters east of its original position and a new rig was observed approximately 0.5 nm to the northwest. Possible construction materials for a drilling rig were visible approximately 2 nm southwest of the center rig.

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21. Each rig has a covered cab and boxed in derrick. A probable house trailer and several motor vehicles were present at each site. The drilling rigs are not the type observed at the Pervomaysk Complex prior to construction of the type IIID sites. The newly observed rigs resemble those used for oil or water exploration and are not considered to be missile related.

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